

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07518 082215Z

73

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SY-02 SCCT-01 EB-03

SCS-01 SCA-01 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 A-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 /041 W

----- 005571

O 082145Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 120

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7518

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CASC SOCI CO

SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF SEARS ROEBUCK EXECQ

IVE DONALD E. COOPER

SITREP 5

REF: BOGOTA 7397, 7436, 7456 AND 7459

1. AS STATED BOGOTA 7459, AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AUG 7. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CONCERN OF USG THAT PROTECTING LIFE OF VICTIM RECEIVE PRIORITY. MINISTER AGREED THIS POSITION AND STATED HE WOULD BE TALKING TO PRESIDENT ABOUT CASE. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

2. TODAY AT NOON AMBASSADOR MET WITH ACTING FONMIN BORDA, STATING SAME POSITION AND ASKING HIM TO PASS ON TO AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF CASE. BORDA LATER ADVISED AMBASSADOR HE HAD TALKED TO HEAD OF DAS, WHO AGREED LIFE OF COOPER FIRST PRIORITY.

3. AMBASSADOR THEN SPOKE TO ACTING DEFENSE MIN LOMBANA, MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

P. OUR MAJOR CONCERN IS FOR COOPER'S LIFE.

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B. SEARS AND EMBASSY'S INTEREST IN HAVING DESIGNATED ASAP A

SINGLE CONTACT WITH WHOM BOTH CAN COORDINATE. AT PRESENT GOC HAS DESIGNATED A COMMITTEE INCLUDING REPS OF VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE AND POLICE AGENCIES TO COORDINATE INVESTIGATION AND RELEASE EFFORTS.

C. IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATING PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.

4. LOMBANA STATED POLICE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PRESS INVESTIGATION BUT TO TAKE NO ENFORCEMENT ACTION WITHOUT PRIOR COORDINATING MINDEF.

5. UPON RETURN TO BOGOTA TODAY OF DEFENSE MINISTER VARON VALENCIA, LOMBANA EXPECTS CONTACT POINT WITH EMBASSY AND SEARS WILL BE NAMED.

6. COLOMBIAN MEDIA SO FAR HAVE ENGAGED IN WILD FANTASIES AND SPECULATION REGARDING KIDNAPPING AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. SOME STORIES HAVE BEEN FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO EMBASSY SOURCES. AMBASSADOR HAS THEREFORE INSTRUCTED EMBASSY SPOKESMEN TO REFER ALL INQUIRERS TO GOC. SEARS IS ALSO FOLLOWING POLICY OF NO COMMENT.

7. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTIONS DIRECT CONTACT BY DEPARTMENT WITH FAMILY. PARA 2 BOGOTA 7397 CONCERNED ONLY FIRST NOTIFICATION TO FAMILY OF KIDNAPPING.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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